

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A settlement processing method comprising:

transmitting information relating to a sales

5 transaction by a transmitter;

receiving the information from the transmitter by a
satellite;

transmitting the received information by the
satellite;

10 receiving the information from the satellite by a
communications network;

receiving the information from the satellite through
the communications network by a settlement unit; and

15 processing a settlement of sales transaction based
on the received information by the settlement unit.

2. A settlement processing system comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting information relating
to a sales transaction;

20 a satellite for receiving and transmitting the
information from the transmitter;

a communications network for receiving information
transmitted from said satellite; and

25 a settlement unit connected to said communications
network, receiving the information transmitted from said
transmitter through said satellite and said
communications network, and processing the settlement of
the sales transaction based on the received information.

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3. A settlement processing system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said transmitter is provided with:

an input device for inputting information relating to settlement processing of the sales transaction; and

5 a satellite communications device having an interface able to transfer information with said input device and communicating with said satellite.

10 4. A settlement processing system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said satellite communications device transfers information with said input device through said interface at a communications speed commensurate with said input device.

15 5. A settlement processing system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said satellite communications device is a portable mobile unit for satellite communications.

20 6. A settlement processing system as set forth in claim 3, wherein

said transmitter starts a connection operation with said settlement unit through said satellite and said communications network upon the input of a predetermined instruction by an operator of the input device and
25 transmits information relating to the settlement processing of said sales transaction by a transmitting operation by an operator performed after the input of said instruction.

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7. A settlement processing system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said settlement unit verifies said input device.

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